AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

The current invention involves a system and method for automatically managing and carrying out the process in which human shoppers may seek out, select and/or be matched with other human entities for any purpose. This aspect of the invention, which may occur in an iterative fashion, generally includes the overall management of the various steps of the process, and greater detail on carrying out some of the specific steps of the process, including scoring and ranking, and including inspection and verification by means of automated testing and interviewing.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect of the current invention involves a method and system of iterative scoring and ranking the degree of match between pairs of human shoppers. The total score for a given pair of human shoppers may be the sum of the scores earned by that pair of human shoppers with respect to each individual selection criterion in each of the human shopper's selection criteria sets. The score earned with respect to each selection criterion may consist of the product of some or all of various factors including: (1) whether or not the other human shopper satisfies that criterion to any degree, (2) the quantifiable degree to which the other human shopper satisfies that criterion, (3) a weighting factor that may describe the relative importance of that criterion, (4) a correction factor based upon objective testing, (5) a correction factor based upon interviewing and (6) a correction factor based upon reference checking. Other factors may be used in scoring the degree of the match between pairs of human shoppers.

Please replace paragraph [0078] with the following amended paragraph:

5.   A comprehensive, iterative scoring system appropriate for an automated selection process including quantifiable measures and including verification and reference checking steps.

Please replace paragraph [0085] with the following amended paragraph:

In another aspect of the current invention, the system and method may use tests or interviews of a human shopper to iteratively correct and/or verify previous scoring and ranking (e.g., of the type described in the above section) that exists for that human shopper. This may involve a correction factor based upon objective testing or a correction factor based upon interviewing. That is, if a human shopper had been previously scored, this scoring information may be used as the starting point for an interview or test administered by this system. Answers

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to interview and/or test questions may be used to <u>iteratively</u> verify or correct the previous scoring. The testing and interviewing aspects of the current invention may also include a method for generating the correction factors.

Please replace paragraph [0151] with the following amended paragraph:

"Virtual provider" - A virtual provider is a body of information (such as a record in a database in computer storage) describing a provider in relation to a particular order, <u>so as to create an informational pair</u>. There may be multiple virtual providers associated with a single provider. For example, in an employment application, a provider can express an interest in more than one order and virtual providers may be created for each of those orders. One way that a virtual provider may be created is that a provider expresses an interest in a particular order and that interest is then entered into the system of the invention. Another way is that the system may automatically determine that a particular provider and a particular order are a good match and may therefore create a virtual provider for this match.

Please replace paragraph [0233] with the following amended paragraph:

Typical data structures (i.e. a database schema) associated with the current embodiment are now discussed with reference to FIGS. 4 through <u>13</u>. For simplicity of illustration, the data structures are divided into relational databases. Each sub-figure (e.g. FIG. 4.1) illustrates one relational database table. Each item in each sub-figure (e.g. "Staff ID" in FIG. 4.1) is a single column (also known as "field") in the database table described by that sub-figure, though the columns are shown vertically.

Please replace paragraph [0328] with the following amended paragraph:

A "virtual provider" was earlier defined as the stored information about a provider including the identity of a particular order that the provider is interested in. In this embodiment, a "virtual provider" is a pair of related records in the Provider Database (as illustrated in Figure 7) <u>that may be referred to as an informational pair</u>. The system may create virtual providers for a given order from provider resumes sent to system 1, and stored in computer storage. Such resumes may have been stored in computer storage either before or after the order was created. The methods by which resumes may be entered into storage was described earlier.

Please replace paragraph [0354] with the following amended paragraph:

For example, a program may be invoked to update virtual provider scores based upon a provider's interview or test answers. <u>As such, the use of updated information provides for</u>

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iterative scoring. The identity or content of this program may be found in the "Action After Data Received" field in Figure 7.2. Depending on the particular action program, an alarm may still be sent out calling for human intervention, if certain conditions exist. Unless an alarm is sent out calling for human intervention, when the program in the "Action After Data Received" field is completed, the Step Sequencing Subsystem 214 may advice the Status Updating Subsystem 212 to report that the step has been completed.

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